

Bilingual Training Center

English Institute

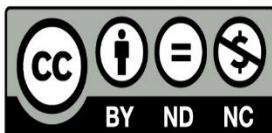
Are you ready to take the challenge?
We hope so!



BASIC ENGLISH BOOK

II

By. Jyuber E. Alvarez C.



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INTRODUCTION

The present textbook corresponds to the course of Basic English II, which represents the fundamental bases of teaching-learning of the English language. It is expected with this course that the students with the basic knowledge of Basic English I continue developing basic skills in writing, speaking, reading and listening comprehension for the acquisition of the same.

The contents that the book have, represent a valuable contribution to the development of the language knowledge. In the first instance, these contents constitute the fundamental bases of the language learning as for the appropriation of structures, vocabulary, and pronunciation at a basic level. On the other hand, these knowledge continue the development of oral, speaking, and writing expression techniques as well as strategies for reading and getting the meaning by the context which will be consolidated in the next levels. This textbook comprises seven units: (1) Expressing existence in past tense, (2) Comparisons, (3) Present Progressive Tense, (4) Simple Past of the Verb To Be, (5) Tag questions, (6) Past Progressive Tense, (7) Simple Past Tense of Verbs other than the Verb To Be. Each unit contains a lot of sections that has listening comprehension exercises, in which, it is talked in many different contexts. You can practice these units by listening the audio recordings provided by your English instructor alone, in pair or group in order that you can make a good use of this material.

We think you will enjoy using this textbook and hope you get to be a good English speaker. The decision is in your hands! Are you ready to take the challenge? We hope so!

Jyuber E. Alvarez C.

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UNIT I: EXPRESSING EXISTENCE IN PAST TENSE

Las frases de existencia en pasado tienen el mismo uso que las frases de existencia en presente, con la única diferencia de que estas están en pasado. *[The phrases of existence in past tense have the same use than the phrases of existence in present tense with the only difference that these phrases are in past tense].*

- **There was** : Había, Hubo.
- **There were** : Habían, Hubieron.

GRAMMAR FORMULAE:

- **Affirmative** : There + was/were + Complement

Examples:

1. There was a book on the table.
2. There were three trees on the street.
3. There was a time when everybody thought that was the world's end.
4. There were fifteen students in the classroom.

- **Negative** : There + was/were + not + Complement

Examples:

1. There was not a book on the table.
2. There were not three trees on the street.
3. There was not a time when everybody thought that was the world's end.
4. There were not fifteen students in the classroom.



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The negative contraction of THERE WAS/WERE + NOT is:

- **There wasn't**
- **There weren't**

Examples:

1. There wasn't a book on the table.
2. There weren't three trees on the street.
3. There wasn't a time when everybody thought that was the world's end.
4. There weren't fifteen students in the classroom.

- **Question** : Was/were + There + Complement + ?

Examples:

1. Was there a book on the table?
→Yes, there was.
→No, there was not.
→No, there wasn't.
2. Were there three trees on the street?
→Yes, there were.
→No, there were not.
→No, there weren't.

- **Negative Question** : Was/Were + There + Not + Complement + ?

Examples:

1. Was there not a book on the table?
→Yes, there was.
→No, there was not.
→No, there wasn't.
2. Were there not fifteen students in the classroom?
→Yes, there were.
→
→No, there weren't.

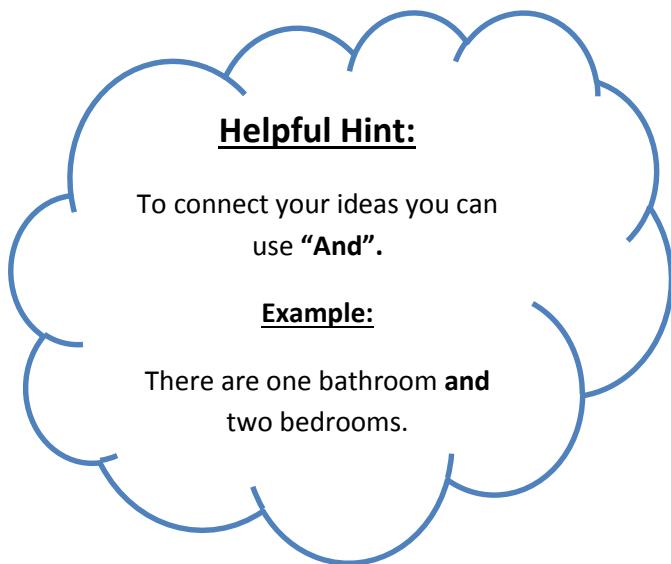


- Contracted Negative Question :

Wasn't/Weren't + There + Complement + ?

Examples:

1. Wasn't there a book on the table?
→ Yes, there was.
→ No, there was not.
→ No, there wasn't.
2. Weren't there three trees on the street?
→ Yes, there was.
→ No, there was not.
→ No, there wasn't.



Conversation:

Andy : Jack, there's one thing I want to ask you.

Jack : What's wrong?

Andy : Were there foreign students in the conference about Sustainable Tourism?

Jack : Yes, there were.

Andy : How many students were there?

Jack : There were about 300 foreign students and 700 national students.

CONSOLIDATION ACTIVITIES:

- ***Writing and Listening Comprehension.***



I. Read the following sentences and translate them from English to Spanish.

1. There was a mistake in the book. _____
2. There was no any water left. _____
3. There were a cat, two dogs, and one pig. _____
4. I remember there was a nice restaurant near here. _____
5. Were there mistakes in the book? _____
6. There was an interesting movie on TV. _____
7. Was there any special person in your life? _____



II. **Listening Comprehension:** Listen to your teacher carefully and write in the gaps the sentences that he/she is going to dictate to you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____



III. Translate from Spanish to English.

1. Habían tres libros en el escritorio. _____
2. Había un error en tu oración. _____
3. Habían muchas personas en la iglesia. _____
4. ¿No había nadie? _____
5. Había una vez. _____
6. Había un huevo en el nido. _____
7. Había una solución. _____



FURTHER VOCABULARY:



1. Once upon a time	:	Había una vez.	13. Firefly	:	Luciérnaga.
2. There comes a time	:	Llega un momento.	14. Flea	:	Pulga.
3. Boa constrictor	:	Boa constrictora.	15. Feather	:	Pluma.
4. Beaver	:	Castor.	16. Hyena	:	Hiena.
5. Boar	:	Jabalí.	17. Jellyfish	:	Medusa.
6. Caterpillar	:	Oruga.	18. Killer whale	:	Orca
7. Cricket	:	Grillo.	19. Whale	:	Ballena.
8. Cheetah	:	Guepardo.	20. Louse	:	Piojo.
9. Crayfish	:	Cangrejo (de río)	21. Dove	:	Paloma.
10. Crab	:	Cangrejo, Punche.	22. Magpie	:	Hurraca.
11. Elk	:	Alce.	23. Parakeet	:	Chocoyo
12. Moose	:	Alce.	24. Swan	:	Cisne

ANOTHER PHRASES TO EXPRESS EXISTENCE IN PAST TENSE

- **There seemed to be :** Parecía que había.
- **There existed :** Existía.
- **There remained :** Quedaba.

Examples:

1. There seemed to be an agreement.
2. There existed many books about the world's end.
3. There remained very little hopes.
4. There didn't seem to be many people in that party.

Description

It is an interesting book in order to teach English to students which mother tongue is Spanish.

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THERE WAS A CAR ACCIDENT



Julia : Is it true there was a car accident near your workplace?

Elis : Yes, there was. There were many people injured and there were two people died due to the accident. It seems no one obeyed the traffic light.

Julia : That's so sad! Last month, there were seven car accidents and there seemed to be a reduction of car accidents early in this month, but it was on the contrary, there was a significant increase of these.

Elis : I know!

THE POKER PLAYER

Henry : Jack, do you like playing poker?

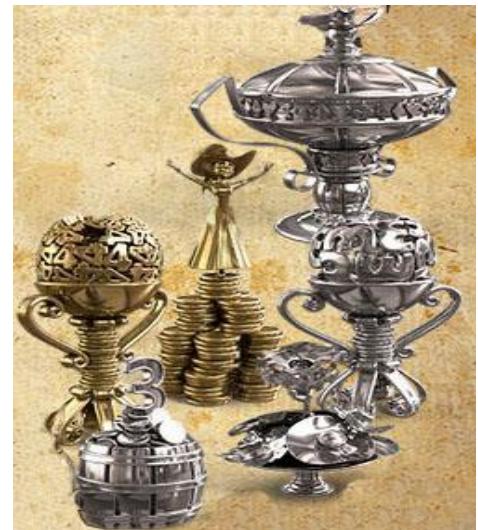
Jack : Yes, I do. I usually go to the Saloon Amarillo on weekends.

Henry : It seems you like games of chance a lot. Were there many players at Saloon Amarillo last weekend?

Jack : Yes, there were 30 poker players because there was a tournament. The winner took \$35,000.

Henry : That means there were many good players.

Jack : That's right! Unfortunately, I reached fourth place in the tournament.



UNIT II: COMPARISONS

Comparisons indicate degrees of difference with adjectives and adverbs, and may be equal and unequal. In English, there are three types of comparisons:

- Equal Comparisons.
- Unequal Comparisons. (Known as the comparative form)
- Inferiority Comparisons.



The non-comparative form is known as “the superlative”.

1. Unequal Comparisons (or Superiority Comparisons)

The comparative of superiority is formed by adding the particle “ER” at the root of the adjective whether the adjective is one-and two syllable (thick, cold, quiet, etc.). When the adjective has more than one-and two syllable, we must use “more” in order to form the comparison of superiority. Here is a list of common adjectives:

1. Small :	Pequeño (a), Poco.	16. Comfortable :	Cómodo.
2. Big :	Grande.	17. Common :	Común.
3. High :	Alto.	18. Creative :	Creativo.
4. Tall :	Alto.	19. Dark :	Oscuro.
5. Troublesome :	Problemático, Difícil.	20. Effective :	Efectivo.
6. Tiny :	Diminuto, Minúsculo.	21. Expressive:	Expresivo.
7. Ashamed :	Avergonzado.	22. Extroverted:	Extrovertido.
8. Abdominal :	Abdominal.	23. Guilty :	Culpable.
9. Accurate :	Exacto, Preciso.	24. Luxurious :	Lujoso.
10. Active :	Activo, En actividad.	25. Necessary:	Necesario.
11. Brave :	Valiente.	26. Obnoxious:	Odioso.
12. Bittersweet :	Agridulce.	27. Fat :	Gordo.
13. Bushy :	Tupido, Poblado.	28. Fast :	Rápido
14. Cheap :	Barato.	29. Modern :	Moderno
15. Clean :	Limpio.	30. Interesting:	Interesante.

NOTE: We will double the final consonant of one-syllable adjectives which end in a single consonant (except w, x, and z) and are preceded by a single vowel. (big – bigger; hot – hotter; red – redder). When an adjective ends in “y” preceded by a consonant, we change the “y” for “I” and add “-ER”. The -ER suffix means exactly the same as “more”. Therefore, they can never be used together in sentences.

In English, there are some irregular adjectives like these ones:

Good	Bueno	Better	Mejor
Bad	Malo	Worse	Peor
Far	Lejano	Farther/Further	Más lejano
Little	Pequeño	Less	Menor

GRAMMAR FORMULAE:

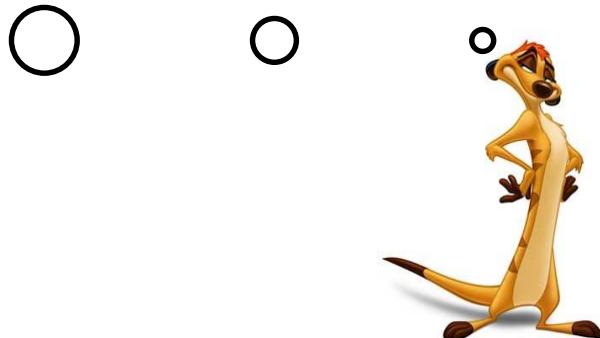
- **Affirmative** : P.P + To Be (am/is/are) + adjective + er / more + adjective + than + noun/pronoun

Examples:

1. She is taller than I.
2. Andrew is more intelligent than his sister.
3. I am smarter than you.
4. Mary is more beautiful than Lilly.
5. My brother speaks English better than you.
6. This pair of shoes is cheaper than that one.
7. These towers are higher than those ones.

HELPFUL HINT:

We use “one” and “ones” to avoid repeating the same words in a sentence.



- **Negative**

P.P + To be (am/is/are) + Not + Adjective + -ER/more + adjective + than + noun/pronoun

Examples:

1. She is not taller than I. → OR → She isn't taller than I.
2. Andrew is not more intelligent than his sister.
3. I am not smarter than you.
4. Mary is not more beautiful than Lilly.
5. My brother does not speak English better than you.
6. This pair of shoes is not cheaper than that one.
7. These towers are not higher than those ones.



BUYING A PAIR OF SHOES

Salesclerk : Good morning, sir. May I help you?

Customer : Yes. I'd like to see that pair of shoes that is in the showcase.

Salesclerk : The one in fuchsia?

Customer : Yes.

Salesclerk : Here you go. This pair of shoes has a 10% off, but if you buy two pairs of these shoes, you get a 25% discount.



Customer : How much does this pair of shoes cost?

Salesclerk : It costs \$ 150.

Customer : \$ 150? You must be kidding! That's expensive! Don't you have anything cheaper?

Salesclerk : I'm not kidding, sir. But if you want something cheaper, we've got this nice pair of shoes exported from Sweden.

Customer : How much does this pair of shoes cost?

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Salesclerk : It costs \$ 75. If you pay through credit card you get a 3% discount. This pair of shoes is cheaper than the first one.

Customer : Yeah. It's cheaper. You have convinced me! I'll take them. I'll pay by credit card. Do you accept VISA?

Salesclerk : We do accept VISA credit card, but let me tell you this, if you pay by VISA credit card you get a 7% discount. You are luckier than many of our customers, in this case.

Customer : OMG! I got my own way!

CONSOLIDATION ACTIVITIES

 Supply the correct form of the adjectives in parentheses. Add any other words that may be necessary.

1. His job _____ (important) than his friend's.
2. A new house is much _____ (expensive) than an old one.
3. Martha _____ (talented) than her cousin.
4. Nobody is _____ (happy) than Gloria.
5. A greyhound runs _____ (fast) than a Chihuahua.
6. The Empire State Building _____ (tall) than The Statue of Liberty.
7. Nicaragua is _____ (big) than Costa Rica.
8. Junior is _____ (talkative) than Marlieth.
9. My computer is _____ (modern) than yours.
10. This Oxford Dictionary of American English is _____ (useful) than a pocket dictionary.
11. This book is _____ (interesting) than that one.
12. Alex is _____ (obnoxious) than his brother.
13. That jacket is _____ (expensive) than this one.
14. Deborah is _____ (pretty) than Janet.
15. This coffee is not _____ (bitter) than that one.
16. He is not _____ (wealthy) than his father

2. Equal Comparisons

An equal comparison indicates that the two entities are (or are not, if negative) exactly the same.

GRAMMAR FORMULAE:

- **Affirmative** : P.P + VERB + as + Adjective + as + noun/pronoun

Examples:

1. She is as tall as I.
2. Deborah is as old as he.
3. My computer is as modern as yours.
4. Ian sings as well as his sister.

- **Negative** : P.P + VERB + not + as + adjective + as + noun/pronoun

Examples:

1. She is not as tall as I.
2. Deborah is not as old as he.
3. My computer is not as modern as yours.
4. Ian does not sing as well as his sister.

NOTE: Sometimes you may see “so” instead of “as” before the adjective in negative comparisons. Also, when you are using a verb other than the verb “to be” you must use the auxiliaries (do/does; did) in order to make the negative comparison.

Examples:

1. She is not so tall as I.
2. Deborah is not so old as he.
3. My computer is not so modern as yours.
4. Ian does not sing so well as his sister.

These ideas can also be conveyed in another way. Let's study the following chart first.

ADJECTIVES	NOUNS
- Heavy: Pesado	- Weight: Peso
- Light: Liviano	- Width: Ancho, Anchura.
- Wide: Ancho	- Depth: Profundidad.
- Narrow: Angosto	- Length: Longitud, Largo.
- Deep: Profundo	- Size: Tamaño, Magnitud, Talla.
- Shallow: Poco profundo.	
- Long: Largo	
- Short: Corto, Bajo.	
- Big: Grande.	
- Small: Pequeño.	

P.P + Verb + **the same** + noun + as + noun/pronoun

Examples:

1. She is as tall as I. → She is the same height as I.
2. Deborah is as old as he. → Deborah is the same age as he.
3. My house is as high as his. → My houses is the same height as his.

NOTE: The opposite of “the same as” is “different from”. NEVER use different than, please.

Examples:

1. My nationality is different from hers.
2. Our climate is different from Australia's.

Examples with “**the same as** + noun/pronoun”.

- Ian sings the same as his sister.
- He speaks the same language as her.
- Her address is the same as Mary's.
- My computer types the same as yours.
- I study the same bachelor's degree as you.



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THE NEW ENGLISH TEACHER

- Daniel** : Hey, Johnny! What do you think about our new English teacher?
- Johnny** : I think he is as creative as the previous English teacher.
- Alex** : Yeah. He has the same knowledge as our previous teacher.
- Daniel** : Maybe you're right guys, but I think he is not so dynamic as the previous teacher.
- Johnny** : Are you kidding me, Daniel? He's got a good sense of humor and he's as dynamic as our previous English teacher.
- Alex** : Do you really think so, guys?
- Daniel** : O.K. guys! Let's change the subject because we're getting nowhere with this conversation. After all, we've got the same target as the rest of our classmates – learn English!



 **FURTHER VOCABULARY** 

1. As required: Cuando sea necesario.
2. At the drop of a hat: En cualquier momento.
3. Air pressure: Presión atmosférica.
4. Airspace: Espacio aéreo.
5. Acid rain: Lluvia ácida.
6. As flat as a pancake: Liso como una tabla.
7. A peal of thunder: Un trueno.
8. Answer the call: Morir.
9. At the top of one's lungs: Muy alto (voz).
10. Ash-blond hair: Cabello rubio cenizo.
11. A.T.M: Automated Teller Machine.
12. Awful: Horrible, Espantoso, Atroz.
13. According to: Según, De acuerdo con.
14. Absentminded: Distraído, Despistado.
15. Away team: Equipo visitante.
16. By way of explanation: A modo de explicación.
17. To be the pick of the bunch: Ser el mejor de todos.
18. I don't buy that! : ¡No me trago ese cuento!
19. What's in a name? : ¿Importa el nombre?
20. Elbow room: Espacio, Lugar.
21. To see pink elephants: Ver doble/diablos azules
22. Who's cut the cheese?: ¿Quién se echó/tiró uno?
23. To be around the bush: Andarse con rodeos.
24. To get the point: Ir al grano.
25. To do one's bit: Poner/dar su granito de arena.
26. A can of worms: Un problema complicado.
27. To abstain from: Abstenerse de.
28. In spite of: A pesar de. → Despite.
29. To catch one's eye: Llamar la atención de uno.
30. I don't give a shit: Me vale un carajo – verga.

3. Inferiority Comparisons

In this type of comparison, we are going to make use of the following comparatives:

LESS ... THAN (Menos... que)

GRAMMAR FORMULA:

- **Affirmative**

P.P + To be (am/is/are) + less + adjective + than + noun/pronoun

Examples:

1. Elisa is less intelligent than you.
2. This book is less expensive than this one.
3. Alex is less famous than George.
4. This subject is less important than the first one.
5. He earns less money than you.

NOTE: When making sentences with verbs other than the verb “to be” we must change “THAN” for “THAT”.

Examples:

1. He has more money than I have.
2. She has more experience than he has.
3. She doesn't have more money than I have.
4. Teacher Adams has more students than he has.

NOTE: “THAT” as an adverb means into Spanish “Tan” and it is used before adjectives.

Examples:

1. This pair of shoes is not that expensive as this one.
2. I am not that interested in that matter.
3. I don't know why he is that stupid.
4. This computer is not that expensive.

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5. THE SUPERLATIVE FORM

In the superlative form, three or more entities are compared, one of which is superior or inferior to the others. Let's follow the following formula:

<i>Subject + verb + the +</i>	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{- Adjective} + \text{est} \\ \text{- Most} + \text{adjective} \\ \text{- Least} + \text{adjective} \end{array} \right\}$	<i>+ in singular count noun / of plural count noun</i>
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In some cases, we have to modify the adjective before adding “-est”. Let's have a look at the rules:

Rule 1: If an adjective ends in a final consonant preceded by a vowel, double the final consonant.

Examples:

Big → The biggest

Hot → The hottest

Thin → The thinnest.

NOTE: Keep in mind we must put “the” before the adjective and then add “-est”, if talking about short adjectives. We must put “the most” before the adjective of more than one syllable.

Rule 2: Adjectives ending in “e” drop the final “e”.

Examples:

Late → The latest

Nice → The nicest

Rule 3: Adjectives ending in “y” preceded by a consonant, change the “y” for an “I”.

Examples:

Happy → The happiest

Heavy → The heaviest

Some Irregular Adjectives:

Good	→	The best
Bad	→	The worst
Far	→	The farthest
Little	→	The least

General Examples:

1. Paul is the most intelligent.
2. This is the tallest building in the town.
3. He is the tallest in the family.
4. She is the most beautiful in the classroom.
5. This picture is the most beautiful of all.
6. This is the most important test for me.
7. This is the highest tower in the world.
8. Real Madrid is the best football team in the world.
9. Barcelona is the best football team in the world.
10. He is the happiest of all.
11. Dina is the shortest of the three sisters.
12. These shoes are the least expensive of all.
13. Mountain Paradise Hotel is the most expensive hotel in Costa Rica.
14. The Reserve of Bosawas is the most beautiful in Nicaragua.
15. Ometepe Island is the most important in the Seven Wonders of the World.
16. The most important in life is to do what you want to reach.
17. This is the most important book in this bookcase.
18. Samsung Galaxy S6 is the most expensive cellphone in our country.
19. The most used social networks in our country are Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp.
20. Stephen Hawking is the most interesting person in the world.



NOTE: The most (Más, Muchísimo).

- She earns the most.
- I love you the most.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING RESPONSIBLE IN MEETINGS

Some people tend to be a little irresponsible making up their irresponsibility by telling lies. Maybe you have a meeting with them at a determined hour and spot, but they don't attend the meeting and you like a dumb waiting for them; you try to call them and never answer their cellphones and even turn them off! Let's ask ourselves the following question: why do we tend to be irresponsible? Perhaps, we may feel tired and don't feel like attending a meeting or have other things to do. Others do it like a habit (which it's bad manners). What happen if we jilt a person? The first reaction of a person will be to get mad and have a negative conception of yours. When people are used to being irresponsible, it is possible that their friends, co-workers, family members and others start to not believe them (and that would be the sad truth). What should we do in order to be responsible? First, if for any reason we cannot attend a meeting, please, let's give them a call explaining to them the reasons why we cannot attend the meeting (do not forget to apologize to them). Nevertheless, some people do not put into practice this way of responsibility (so to speak) and make the people wait for them for a long time. Nowadays, we've got a bunch of social networks by which we can contact our friends, co-workers, etc. (and even your boss! Which will be risky) in order to let them know why we are not going to gather with them.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN ORDER TO LEARN ENGLISH?

Professor McLean : Good morning, boys and girls! I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Stephen Junior McLean Carretero. I'm a professor of the English Language and I am here to see what you do in order to learn English. Let's start here...

Robert : Hi! My name is Robert Karson and I'm from El Salvador.

Professor McLean : Good! What do you do to learn English?

Robert : I normally study the grammar and then practice the exercises. Next I practice the pronunciation which I consider that is very difficult. I don't practice too much my listening and speaking skills because I don't have with whom to practice my English.

Professor McLean : Good! Next one.

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Ericka : Hello, my name's Ericka and I'm from Nicaragua.

Professor McLean : Nice to meet you, Ericka. Please, share with us what you do in order to learn English.

Ericka : Firstly, I study all the grammar definitions and formulas in order to make sentences because I consider that the most important in English is the grammatical formulas. If you don't know grammar you won't be able to write, speak and listen.

Professor McLean : Is there anything you do to improve your listening and speaking skills?

Ericka : Well, I listen to the recordings in the compact discs according to the lessons and practice the new vocabulary. I ask my friends to correct me when making a mistake while I speak English.

Professor McLean : I've seen you are doing many things in order to learn English, but you've forgotten something important for your learning – motivation, if you do not have motivation when studying English, you will not get very far. Having a good teacher is also important for the successful language learning.

TALKING ABOUT UNIVERSITY STUDIES



Kathy : Hi, Mary. How are you doing?

Mary : I'm doing fine! What about you?

Kathy : Everything is ok, thanks to God. By the way, when do you start your university studies?

Mary : Until next year. I am taking up an English course for the moment and also I am working as a waitress in my free time.

Kathy : That means you are taking a gap year. How is everything going with your English lessons?

Mary : So good for the time being! I've got an excellent teacher.

Kathy : Are you taking up only English or another lesson?

Mary : Just English like I said before!

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WHY DON'T YOU COME TO BTC?

George : Jürgen, where do you study English?

Jürgen : I am studying English at BTC. And you, George?

George : What does BTC stand for?

Jürgen : BTC stands for BILINGUAL TRAINING CENTER.

George : Oh, now I get it! I want to study English in order to improve my linguistics skills, but I can't find the correct place to study this global language.

Jürgen : Why don't you come to BTC?

George : Mmm... Let me think. How much does the tuition cost?

Jürgen : It's not that expensive. You can join us!

George : O.K. I'll go.



THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD O.K.

The origin of this word is unclear, but it is said that during the civil war well-known as the American Civil War in the United States of America which took place between 1861 and 1865; it was supposed to be part of the camps the abbreviations O.K which meant:

O → Zero

K → Kill

That is, it had not occurred the loss of men during the military confrontation. Hence it began using the term O.K. as a sign that everything is fine (O.K.). The first time that the abbreviation of O.K. appeared in print's letters was on March 23rd, 1839 at Boston Morning Post as part of a fad for similar fanciful abbreviations in the United States during the late 1830s.

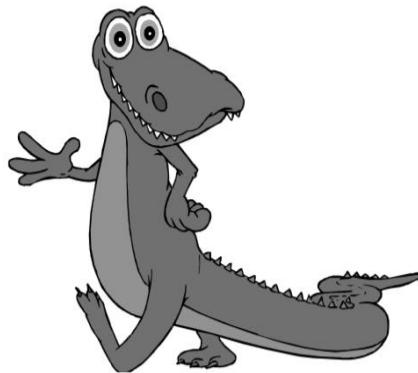
- The late 1830s → Al final de la década de los treinta.
- Fanciful → Extravagante, Descabellado, Imaginativo.

O.K.

UNIT 3: PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSE OR CONTINUOUS

The present progressive tense is used to indicate present time (now) with all but the stative verbs listed below.

1. To know
2. To understand
3. To have
4. To believe
5. To hate
6. To need
7. To hear
8. To love
9. To appear



10. To see
11. To like
12. To seem
13. To smell
14. To want
15. To taste
16. To wish
17. To sound
18. To own

NOTE: These verbs are almost never used in the present or past progressive, although it is possible in some cases.

ING is the particle which gives to the verbs the continuity. It is well-known as the gerund in Spanish.

ING: Ando, Endo, Yendo.

GRAMMAR FORMULAE:

- **Affirmative :** P.P + To be (am/is/are) + verb + -ing + complement

Examples:

1. We are drinking some milk shakes.
2. She is eating some cookies.
3. Marlieth is writing a letter.
4. My aunt Susana is doing the dishes.
5. I am playing tennis.
6. Albert is playing the piano.
7. I am teaching English as a foreign language.



- **Negative**

P.P + To be (am/is/are) + not + verb + -ing + complement

Examples:

1. We are not drinking some milk shakes.
2. She is not eating some cookies.
3. Marlieth is not writing a letter.
4. My aunt Susana is not doing the dishes.
5. I am not playing tennis.
6. Albert is not playing the piano.
7. I am not teaching English as a foreign language.

- **Question**

To be (am/is/are) + P.P + verb + -ing + complement + ?

Examples:

1. Are we drinking any milk shakes?
→ Yes, we are.
→ No, we are not.
→ No, we're not.
→ No, we aren't.
2. Is she eating any cookies?
→ Yes, she is.
→ No, she is not.
→ No, she's not.
→ No, she isn't.
3. Am I playing tennis?
→ Yes, you are.
→ No, you are not.
→ No, you're not.
→ No, you aren't.
4. Are you taking the challenge in order to learn English?
→
→
→



1. PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSE WITH FUTURE CONNOTATION

The present progressive tense or continuous is also used to indicate future time (a near future). That's why it's called "present progressive with future connotation".

GRAMMAR FORMULAE:

- **Affirmative** : *P.P + To be (am/is/are) + verb + -ing + Time Adverb*

The time adverbs more frequently used are:

<i>Today</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Hoy</i>	<i>Early</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Temprano</i>
<i>Yesterday</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Ayer</i>	<i>Late</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Tarde, Con retraso</i>
<i>Tomorrow</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Mañana</i>	<i>Ago</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Hace</i>
<i>Now</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Ahora, ya</i>	<i>Lately</i>	\rightarrow	<i>últimamente</i>
<i>Soon</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Pronto</i>	<i>Long</i>	\rightarrow	<i>Mucho tiempo</i>

Examples:

1. George is leaving for France tomorrow.
2. I am waking up early.
3. We are flying to Venezuela next week.
4. He is coming soon.
5. We are going to see a soccer match this afternoon.

- **Negative** *P.P + To be (am/is/are) + not + verb + -ing + Time Adverb*

Examples:

1. George is not leaving for France tomorrow.
2. I am not waking up early.
3. We are not flying to Venezuela next week.
4. He is not coming soon.
5. We are not going to see a soccer match this afternoon.



- Question

To be (am/is/are) + P.P + verb + -ing + Time Adverb + ?

Example:

1. Is George living for France tomorrow?

→ Yes, he is.

→ No, he is not.

→ No, he's not.

→ No, he isn't.

2. Am I waking up early?

→ Yes, you are.

→ No, you are not.

→ No, you're not.

→ No, you aren't.

3. Are we flying to Venezuela next week?

→ Yes, we are.

→ No, we are not.

→ No, we're not.

→ No, we aren't.

4. Is he coming soon?

→ Yes, he is.

→ No, he is not.

→ No, he's not.

→ No, he isn't.

5. Are we going to see a soccer match this afternoon?

→ Yes, we are.

→ No, we are not.

→ No, we're not.

→ No, we aren't.

6. What are you doing tonight?

→ I am not doing anything tonight.



I have no
special talent.
I am only
passionately
curious.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

2. Future with “Going to + Verb”

The future with “going to + verb” is well-known as the “immediate future” or as “the future of intention” and it’s used to denote actions that we are going to do in 24, 48 and 72 hours and in some cases in an immediate way.

GOING TO is word for word translated into Spanish like: Yendo a, but translated professionally is: Ir a..

GRAMMAR FORMULAS

- **Affirmative** : **P.P + To be (am/is/are) + going to + verb + complement**

Examples:

1. Matilde is going to play tennis this afternoon.
2. We are going to go to the gym tomorrow morning.
3. She is going to go to the doctor.
4. I am going to have an early night.

Note: To have an early night → Acostarse temprano.

- **Negative** : **P.P + To be (am/is/are) + not + going to + verb + complement**

Examples:

1. Matilde is not going to play tennis this afternoon.
2. We are not going to go to the gym tomorrow morning.
3. She is not going to go to the doctor.
4. I am not going to have an early night.

- **Question** : **To be (am/is/are) + P.P + going to + verb + complement + ?**

Example:

1. Is Matilde going to play tennis this afternoon?
→ Yes, she is going to.
→ No, she is not going to.
→ No, she's not going to.
→ No, she isn't going to.

WE ARE GOING TO GO BOWLING

Daniel : Say, Mike, what are you going to do this coming Saturday?

Mike : Eh, I still don't know. Why?

Daniel : Because I want you to come with us this coming Saturday. We are going to go bowling.

Mike : I don't like to go bowling; instead, I prefer to watch the football games on TV.

Lisa : Why are you so stubborn, Daniel? Please, do try and come!

Daniel : I'm not going anywhere. Period!

Lisa : You like to make people insist. That's your trouble!

Daniel : Lisa, don't waste your time talking to him. It's not worth it.



TALKING ON THE PHONE

Paul : Hello, good morning!

Jack : Good morning! Is Mary in?

Paul : Who's calling?

Jack : It's me, Jack Taylor.

Paul : Oh, Jack. How are you doing mate?

Jack : So far so good. Is your sister in?

Paul : Yes, she's in. She's doing the dishes right now. What do you want me to tell her when she finishes washing the dishes?

Jack : Tell her that I'm going to call her back in half an hour to talk about our psychology homework.

Paul : O.K. I'm gonna give her your message right now.



THE MOST FAMOUS GYMS IN JUIGALPA

Jessie : Do you want to go to the gym with me, Ana?

Ana : I'm not used to going to the gym. Last time I went to the gym, I had muscular pains all over.

Jessie : But you are a bit fat. Aren't you taking any exercise?

Ana : I am not taking any exercise for the moment because I don't have time.

Jessie : When I'm in San Carlos I always go to the gym in the morning from 5 o'clock in the morning to 7:30 A.M., but here in Juigalpa I don't know any gym to take exercise, that's why I need your help.

Ana : In my case I don't want to be fit, but I am going to help you. Well, there are five famous gyms here in Juigalpa where you can take exercise at ease. The first one is called "Power Gym", this gym has two stories – the first story is for men and the second one is for women where you can practice aerobics, weightlifting, sit-ups, and so on.

Jessie : I don't want to be a body builder!

Ana : The second one is called "Fuman Chu Gym", nearly with the same specifications like the "power gym" with the only difference that this gym is the oldest in Juigalpa; it also has sauna. The third one is called "Ladies' Gym" which is designed only for women not for men. The fourth one is called "Will Tan Gym" which is the cheapest of the five. It was opened to help low economical income people who want to be healthy, and the last one which is located not far from here where you can do spinning and some cardio exercises, but the tuitions are very expensive.



Jessie : Thanks a million for those interesting details, but now I've got a problem – I can't make up my mind!

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CONSOLIDATION ACTIVITIES:



Simple Present and Present Progressive.

I. Choose either the simple present or present progressive in the following sentences.

1. Something _____ (smell) very good.
2. We _____ (eat) at seven o'clock tonight.
3. He _____ (practice) the piano every day.
4. She _____ (go) to the stadium this afternoon.
5. They _____ (drive) to school tomorrow.
6. They _____ (go) to drink some milk shakes tomorrow.
7. I _____ (believe) you.
8. George always _____ (get up) at 6:00A.M.
9. He _____ (come) soon.
10. Elieth and George are going to the cinema in the evening.

II. Choose the correct form of the verb in parentheses in the following sentences.

1. Julia and I (is/are) listening to the radio.
2. She (is/are) reading a newspaper.
3. I (wash/want) to buy a pack of cigarettes.
4. She (dance/dances) very well.
5. I am (cook/cooking) cookies.
6. We always (getting up/get up) late on Sundays.
7. We are (studying/study) English on Saturday.
8. I am (go to/going to) the drugstore.
9. We are (go to/going to) play tennis in the afternoon.
10. I am (talking/speaking) English with them.



III. Answer these questions.

1. What time do you get up?

2. What do you do to practice your English?

MAKING LOVE OUT OF NOTHING AT ALL (Air Supply)

I know just how to whisper, and I know just how to cry

I know just where to find the answers

And I know just how to lie

I know just how to fake it and I know just how to scheme

I know just when to face the truth

And I know just when to dream and I know just where to touch you

And I know just what to prove

I know when to pull you closer and I know when to let you loose

And I know the night is fading and I know the time's gonna fly

And I'm never gonna tell you everything I gotta tell you

But I know I've gotta give it a try

And I know the roads to riches and I know the ways to fame

I know all the rules and I know how to break'em

And I always know the name of the game

But I don't know how to leave you and I'll never let you fall

And I don't know how you do it

Making love out of nothing at all, out of nothing at all, out of nothing at all

Out of nothing at all, out of nothing at all, out of nothing at all

Making love out of nothing at all

Every time I see you all the rays of the sun are streaming through the waves

Of your hair and every star in the sky is taking aim at your eyes like a spotlight

The beating of my heart is a drum and it's lost

And it's looking for a rhythm like you

You can take the darkness at the pit of the night and turn into a beacon burning

Endlessly bright, I've gotta follow it 'cause everything I know

Well it's nothing till I give it to you

I can make the runner stumble, I can make the final block

I can make every tackle at the sound of the whistle, I can make all the stadiums rock

I can make tonight forever or I can make it disappear by the dawn

And I can make you every promise that has ever been made

And I can make all your demons be gone

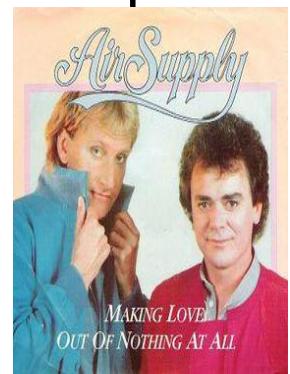
But I'm never gonna make it without you

Do you really want to see me crawl?

And I'm never gonna make it like you do

Making love out of nothing at all, out of nothing at all,

Out of nothing at all, out of nothing at all ...



LA ISLA BONITA (Madonna)

*Como puede ser verdad
Last night I dreamt of San Pedro
Just like I'd never gone, I knew the song
A young girl with eyes like the desert
It all seems like yesterday, not far away
[Chorus]*

*Tropical the island breeze all of the nature wild and free
This is where I long to be, La Isla Bonita
And when the samba played the sun would set so high
Ring through my ears and sting my eyes your Spanish lullaby
I fell in love with San Pedro
Warm wind carried on the sea, he called to me, te dijo te amo
I prayed that the days would last, they went so fast
[Chorus]*

*Tropical the island breeze all of the nature wild and free
This is where I long to be, La Isla Bonita
And when the samba played the sun would set so high
Ring through my ears and sting my eyes your Spanish lullaby
I want to be where the sun warms the sky
When it's time for siesta you can watch them go by beautiful faces,
No cares in this world where a girl loves a boy, and a boy loves a girl
Last night I dreamt of San Pedro
It all seems like yesterday, not far away
[Chorus]*

*Tropical the island breeze all of the nature wild and free
This is where I long to be, La Isla Bonita
And when the samba played the sun would set so high
Ring through my ears and sting my eyes your Spanish lullaby
(x 3)*



UNIT IV: SIMPLE PAST TENSE OF THE VERB TO BE

The uses of the Simple Past are somewhat similar to the uses of the Simple Present Tense. These are the uses of the simple past tense.

1. It is used to express which occurred at regular intervals in the past.
2. It is used to describe situations which existed for a period of time in the past.
3. It is also used to express non-continuous actions which occurred at a definite time in the past.

The Simple Past of the Verb To be

GRAMMAR FORMULAS:

- **Affirmative** : *P.P + was/were + complement*

- **WAS** : Era, fue, estuvo, estaba.
- **Were** : Eran, Fueron, Estaban, Estuvieron.

I was	:	Yo era, estaba, fui.
You were	:	Tú eras, estabas, fuiste.
He was	:	Él era, estaba, fue.
She was	:	Ella era, estaba, fue.
It was	:	Era, fue, estaba.
We were	:	Nosotros (as) éramos, estábamos, fuimos.
You were	:	Ustedes eran, estaban, fueron.
They were	:	Ellos (as) fueron, estaban, estuvieron.

Examples:

1. I was happy.
2. She was a doctor.
3. We were students.
4. They were sad.

• **Negative**

P.P + was/were + not + complement

I was not	:	<i>No era, no estaba, no fui.</i>
You were not	:	<i>No eras, no estabas, no fuiste.</i>
He was not	:	<i>Él no era, no fue, no estaba.</i>
She was not	:	<i>Ella no estaba, no fue, no era.</i>
It was not	:	<i>No fue, no era, no estaba.</i>
We were not	:	<i>No éramos, no fuimos, no estábamos.</i>
You were not	:	<i>Ustedes no eran, no fueron, no estaban.</i>
They were not	:	<i>Ellos/Ellas no eran, no fueron, no estaban.</i>

Examples:

1. I was not happy.
2. She was not a doctor.
3. We were not students.
4. They were not sad.

The negative contraction of **WAS + NOT** is **WASN'T**. The contraction of **WERE + NOT** is **WEREN'T**.

Examples:

1. I wasn't happy.
2. We weren't students.

- Question

Was/were + P.P + Complement + ?

Was I?	:	¿Era yo?, ¿Fui yo?
Were you?	:	¿Eras tú?, ¿Estabas tú?
Was he?	:	¿Era él?, ¿Estaba?
Was she?	:	¿Era ella?, ¿Estaba?
Was it?	:	¿Era?, ¿Estaba?, ¿Fue?
Were we?	:	¿Éramos nosotros?, ¿Estábamos?
Were you?	:	¿Eran ustedes?, ¿Estaban?
Were they?	:	¿Eran ellos/ellas?, ¿Estaban?

Examples:

1. Was I happy?
→ Yes, you were.
→ No, you were not.
→ No, you weren't.
2. Were we students?
→ Yes, we were.
→ No, we were not.
→ No, we weren't.
3. Was she a doctor?
→ Yes, she was.
→ No, she was not.
→ No, she wasn't.
4. Were you English students?
→



- Negative question :

Was/were + P.P + not + complement +?

Examples:

1. Was I not happy?
2. Were we not students?
3. Was she not a doctor?
4. Were you not English students?

- Contracted Negative Question :

Wasn't/weren't + P.P + complement +?

Examples:

1. Wasn't I happy?
2. Weren't we students?
3. Wasn't she a doctor?
4. Weren't you English students?

HE WAS A GREAT TEACHER

Teacher Oscar Smith was born on December 11th, 1941. He was graduated as an English teacher in 1962. Since then, he was a great teacher full of positive ideas. His family, friends, students, and workmates were glad of his help and with the way he was. He was a creative, dynamic teacher with his students, and he was always joking with his friends. All their colleagues were very surprised by his knowledge in the English language and by his charisma. He was always ready to help others, no matter who; but now he is old for that. I was his English student ten years ago and I am pretty sure that he was a great teacher! Today, we want to thank you on behalf of all your English students. May the Lord bless you always!



Answer these questions:

1. Who was Mr. Oscar Smith?

2. Who was/were thanking teacher Oscar Smith?

UNIT V: PAST PROGRESSIVE TENSE (CONTINUOUS)

We form the past progressive tense (or past continuous tense) by using “was/were” + the -ing form of the main verb. This tense is used to describe a past action which was happening when another action interrupted or took place.

GRAMMAR FORMULAS:

- **Affirmative** : *P.P + was/were + verb + ing + complement*

Examples:

1. John was reading a newspaper.
2. Matilde and I were playing tennis yesterday afternoon.
3. We were practicing soccer at the stadium.
4. Marlieth was cooking dinner.

- **Negative** : *P.P + was/were + not + verb + ing + complement*

Examples:

1. John was not reading a newspaper.
2. Matilde and I were not playing tennis yesterday afternoon.
3. We were not practicing soccer at the stadium.
4. Marlieth was not cooking dinner.

- **Question** : *Was/were + P.P + verb + -ing + Complement + ?*

Example:

1. Was John reading a newspaper?
→ Yes, he was.
→ No, he was not.
→ No, he wasn't.

WAS /wəz/

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WRITING WITH ABBREVIATIONS

Karen : What are you doing, Alicia?

Alicia : Oh, I was tidying up my room. Why?

Karen : Just curious! By the way, I was reading a book about “the abbreviations we use when writing English on social networks.”

Alicia : That sounds interesting because I was texting with abbreviations.

Karen : The book says here that most people like writing in this way in order to save time, space, and answer the text messages fast.

Alicia : It's true! I usually write “cya (see you)”, “TTYL (talk to you later)”, B4 (before)”, and so on.

Karen : It also says here that nowadays is common to write like that, but it's considered grammatically incorrect.

Alicia : Were you texting with abbreviations, Karen?

Karen : No, I wasn't. I don't like to screw up the language.

VOCABULARY

1. Tidy : Ordenado, bien cuidado (jardín).
2. To tidy up : Ordenar, Arreglar.
3. Just curious : Sólo por curiosidad.
4. To bump into : Encontrarse con, Chocar/darse contra.
5. Out of this world : Fantástico, increíble.
6. World premiere : Estreno mundial.
7. Plot line : Trama.
8. Nowadays : Hoy en día, en la actualidad.
9. Where there's a will there's a way : Querer es poder.
10. Where there's smoke there's fire : Donde hubo fuego, cenizas quedan.
11. To text : Mandar un mensaje de texto.
12. To screw up : Arrugar, Fruncir, Fastidiar, Destrozar, Arruinar, Destruir, Cagarla.

IMMEDIATE PAST TENSE: "WAS/WERE GOING TO + VERB"

The immediate past tense in the English language is not so common, but it's used to talk about things that have just happened.

GRAMMAR FORMULAE:

- **Affirmative** : ***P.P + was/were + going to + verb + complement***

Examples:

1. I was going to go to the concert tonight. [Iba a ir al concierto esta noche.]
2. We were going to play tennis at Jenny's house.
3. Jerry was going to travel to Cuba.
4. Lady Gaga was going to give a concert in Nicaragua.

- **Negative** ***P.P + was/were +not + going to + verb + complement***

Examples:

1. I was not going to go to the concert tonight.
2. We were not going to play tennis at Jenny's house.
3. Jerry was not going to travel to Cuba.
4. Lady Gaga was not going to give a concert in Nicaragua.

- **Question** : ***Was/were + P.P + going to + verb + complement +?***

Examples:

1. Was I going to go to the concert tonight?
→Yes, you were going to.
→No, you were not going to.
→No, you weren't going to.
2. Were we going to play tennis at Jenny's house?
→Yes, we were going to.
→No, we were not going to.
→No, we weren't going to.

WE WERE GOING TO GO ON VACATION

Oscar : Are you ready to pack your things, Rachel?

Rachel : No, I am not. I was busy.

Oscar : What were you doing?

Rachel : I was talking with Jamie about Mike's birthday.

Oscar : When was Mike's birthday?

Rachel : You're wrong sweetie! Mike's birthday is going to be this coming Saturday.

Oscar : Oh, yeah! You're right. The thing is, I was a bit absentminded.

Rachel : Is there anything you want to tell me?

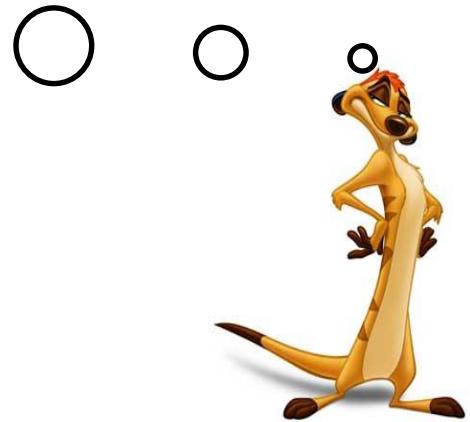
Oscar : Well, the thing is, your mom was calling yesterday afternoon, but we weren't at home.

Rachel : And?

Oscar : She was texting me and told me that she is coming tomorrow morning because she wants to stay with us all the week. So, we are not going to go on vacation.

AMERICAN CULTURE

When Americans put their hands on their hips, they are usually relaxed; when they fold their arms tightly across their chests, they are angry or very serious (or cold).



UNIT VI: TAG QUESTIONS

A tag question in Spanish “*coletilla interrogativa*” is a special construction in English – mini-question at the end of a statement. The tag questions (questions tag is commonly used by British) are used to ask for information and they are very common in spoken English.

GRAMMAR FORMULA FOR THE VERB TO BE

- **Affirmative** *Subject + to be (am/is/are) + complement +, + to be (am/is/are) + not +?*

Examples:

1. She is a doctor, isn't she?
2. Mary is washing the dishes, isn't she?
3. John is a teacher, isn't he?
4. You are in love, aren't you?

- **Negative** *Subject + to be (am/is/are) + not + complement +, + to be (am/is/are) +?*

Examples:

1. She is not a doctor, is she?
2. Mary is not washing the dishes, is she?
3. John is not a teacher, is he?
4. You are not in love, are you?

WITH VERBS OTHER THAN TO BE

P.P + verb + complement +, + don't/doesn't + P.P +?

Examples:

1. You want to buy a new car, don't you?
2. She wants to marry him, doesn't she?
3. I like you, don't I?
4. They sing very well, don't they?

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OUR FRIEND IS IN LOVE

Paul : Hey, guys! How are things?

Erick and Mark : Just fine mate! What's new?

Paul : I am meeting a beautiful girl in the university; she is studying with me.

Ericsson : What does she look like?

Paul : Well, she is not very tall; she is medium height. She has long black hair and beautiful green eyes.

Mark : What's her skin color?

Paul : She's got brunette skin.

Erick : You're really in love with her, aren't you?

Paul : Yes, dude. For me, she's an angel.

Ericsson : Don't overdo it! And tell us what's she like?

Paul : She's warm and gracious. She also likes to talk about the life and the things we can reach if we've got a clear view of life.

Mark : Are you asking her out?

Paul : Not for the time being.

Ericsson : Paul is a basket case, isn't he?

Erick : I'm out of here because I have a lot of things to do. I don't want to be hearing cutesy things.

Paul : You guys don't know anything about what love is. You are always looking for girls just for having a screw, but you don't feel anything for them. Your hearts are empty and with any drop of love.

Mark : Get out of here because you are pissing me off!



UNIT VII: SIMPLE PAST TENSE OF VERBS OTHER THAN THE VERB TO BE

The simple past tense is used to talk about actions that occurred in a concrete moment of the past, that is, the action is part of the past totally and does not have any relation with the present tense. Simply put, *the past tense is used for a complete action that happened at one specific time in the past.*

We have to take into consideration there are three types of verbs:

1. Regular Verbs.
2. Irregular Verbs.
3. Mixed Verbs.

- **Regular verbs:** This type of verbs forms its past and past participle by just adding "ED" at the end of the verb.
- **Irregular Verbs:** This type of verbs changes its form completely; therefore, we have to learn its past and past participle forms by heart.
- **Mixed Verbs:** These verbs are a mix between regular and irregular verbs which may have two simple pasts and two past participles.

Examples:

Regular Verbs	Irregular Verbs	Mixed Verbs
Work → Worked	Do → Did	Clothe → Clothed / Clad

Inside the irregular verbs we find verb categories, that is, how the structure of the verb is in all the grammar tenses. These are the verb categories:

- Pure Verb.
- Double Verb.
- Sole Verb.

When is a verb pure?

A verb is pure when it is not repeated in its grammar structure.

Example:

To do → does → did → done → doing

When is a verb double?

A verb is double when in its grammar structure is repeated twice.

Example:

To come → comes → came → come → coming

When is a verb sole?

A verb is sole when its structure does not change at all.

Example:

To cut → cuts → cut → cut → cutting

To put → puts → put → put → putting

GRAMMAR FORMULAE:

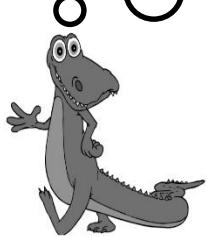
- Affirmative** : P.P + verb (in past) + complement

Examples:

1. I studied English.
2. I worked a lot yesterday.
3. She had a headache yesterday.
4. I watched TV last night.
5. They went to the party.

HELPFUL HINT:

In English, there are three ways of pronouncing the past form of the regular verbs: -ED is pronounced like /t/ after sounds like "k, p, s, ch, sh, and f"; /d/ with sounds like "l, v, n, b, and all vowels"; /ed/ with sounds like "t



- Negative

P.P + did + not + verb (base form) + complement

Examples:

1. I did not study English.
2. I did not work a lot yesterday.
3. She did not have a headache yesterday.
4. I did not watch TV last night.
5. They did not go to the party.

The contraction of **DID + NOT** is: **DIDN'T**.

- I didn't study English.
- I didn't work a lot yesterday.
- She didn't have a headache yesterday.
- I didn't watch TV last night.
- They didn't go to the party.

- Question

: Did + P.P + verb (base form) + complement + ?

Examples:

1. Did I study English?
→ Yes, you did.
→ No, you did not.
→ No, you didn't.
2. Did they go to the party?
→ Yes, they did.
→ No, they did not.
→ No, they didn't.
3. Did Melanie go to the supermarket?
→ Yes, she did.
→ No, she did not.
→ No, she didn't.

HELPFUL HINT:

DID is also an auxiliary used to make negative sentences and questions in past tense.



• **Interrogative-Negative** :

Didn't + P.P + verb (base form) + complement + ?

Examples:

1. Didn't you buy a bicycle?

→ Yes, I did.

→ No, I did not.

→ No, I didn't.

2. Didn't they go to the party?

→ Yes, they did.

→ No, they did not.

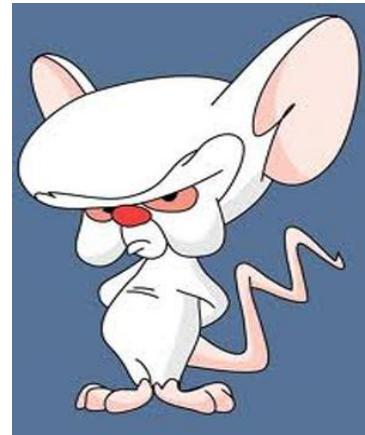
→ No, they didn't.

3. Didn't Melanie go to the supermarket?

→ Yes, she did.

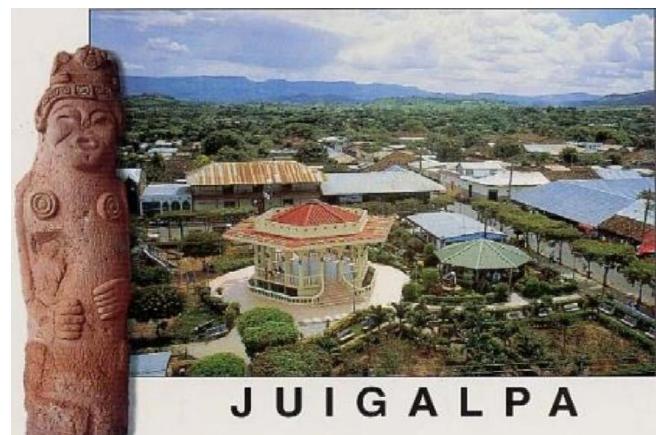
→ No, she did not.

→ No, she didn't.



THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD JUIGALPA

There exist several versions with regard to the name of *Juigalpa*. Researchers such as Squier and Thomas Belt, state that this name has Aztec origins that is translated like “*big city*”; nevertheless, Linguist Alfonso Valle points out that this name according to the Mexican word “*Juigalpan*” means “*breeding of small black snails*”. Other version that is taken into account affirms that the dryness of its lands and abundance of *jicaros* in them, suppose that the name is derived from Mexican words which mean “*land abundant of jicaros*”. The monuments found to this day in the current region of the department of Chontales and which are exposed in the Archeological Museum of Chontales “*Gregorio Aguilar Barea*”, all of them confirm the mixing between two indigenous cultures: Caribes and Chorotegans.



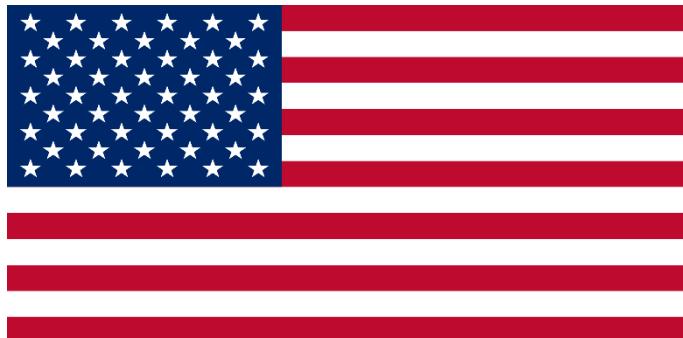
WHY ARE YOU STUDYING ENGLISH?

Hello! My name is Calvin Karson. I'm from Honduras, and I would like to ask you: why are you studying English?

Deborah : Hi, Mr. Calvin Karson! Welcome to the land of lakes and volcanoes – Nicaragua. Thanks for your interesting question. In my case, I am studying English because it is the most broadly spoken language around the world; nevertheless, it's not an easy task to learn a foreign language. Why do I mean by that? Well, learning English is a task which is fraught with serious difficulties such as: the pronunciation, writing, speaking, listening comprehension, and so on. So, if you want to be a good English speaker, you will have to study a lot; first of all, starting with the grammar.

Brian : What Deborah says is true! I am studying English because I want to work anywhere. Of course, if you travel abroad you can communicate easily in this world language. If you know how to speak English, it is possible that you can work as an English teacher in universities, English schools, in the business or tourist sector, among others.

Calvin : Thanks for your opinions guys! I feel very comfortable to be in this wonderful country which is full of history, specifically where I am standing right now which is the place where you are learning this language which will open to you a lot of doors. As you were saying before, learning a foreign language is not as easy as many people think; you have to study very hard, practice the new vocabulary, and phrases in order to put them into practice in your everyday spoken and written English; when you've got doubts, it is advisable that you google on the internet in order that you can find the suitable information you need; you can also contact your e-pals on Facebook, Twitter, Badu, e-mail, YouTube, etc., in order that they give you a clear explanation about the topic you are researching. Once again, it was a pleasure to be here and was nice talking to you. Congrats to all of you and your English teachers for the wonderful labor they are doing day in, day out!



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WHO'S SHE DATING NOW?

Andy : Hey, Ronny, did you know that Lisa is not dating Robert?

Ronny : No, I did not. Who's she dating now?

Andy : Karla told me that her new boyfriend is a foreigner.

Ronny : Is that so?

Karla : Hi, guys! What are you talking about?

Ronny : Nothing in special. Why?

Karla : Because Lisa didn't go to the prom with Robert, so she went with Kim instead.

Andy : Karla, how do you know that?

Karla : Lisa introduced me her new boyfriend. His name is Kim Anderson and he's Canadian.

Ronny : Poor Robert! He must be heartbroken.



I HAD A TERRIBLE DAY YESTERDAY!

George : Damn! This fucking cellphone doesn't work!

Junior : George, is everything all right?

George : No, it's not. I had a terrible day yesterday!

Junior : What happened to you yesterday?



George : I went fishing with my father, my brother, two friends of mine, and my girlfriend, and when I was standing up in the boat, my Samsung Galaxy S6 slipped out of my hands and fell into the water. I jumped into the water to look for it, but as luck would have it, I got it back! Then, I took my cellphone to pieces and dried it with a hairdryer, but it doesn't work now.

Junior : Why didn't you go to the cellphones repair shop?

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George : Because I was angry with myself! This cellphone cost me an eye and a leg.

Junior : You can still go to the cellphones repair shop to see if there's some solution for your cellphone.

George : I'm gonna take your advice, mate! I'm going to the cellphones repair shop right now!

Junior : Go now! And give me a call later in order that you let me know if there was a solution for your cellphone.

DOING THE SHOPPING

Marlieth: Hi, Karla, this is Marlieth.

Karla : Oh, hi, Marlieth. How are you doing?

Marlieth: Just fine! Listen, I was thinking of going downtown in order to go shopping at the mall. You know, it's Mike's birthday this coming Friday and I wanna buy him a present. Do you want to come along with me?

Karla : I may as well! Do you wanna pick me up?

Marlieth: Sure. I'm gonna be there in half an hour.

Karla : Thanks mate! I'm going to take a shower right now!

Marlieth: Karla, it's time to go!

Karla : Wait me a second! Here I go!

Marlieth: Stop looking at you in the mirror and jump on!

(At the mall)

Karla : I didn't expect so many people here.



Marlieth: Oh, this is nothing! On weekends you are not able to move around. Let's go upstairs.

Karla : Wow! This is amazing! In this floor there are lingerie, cosmetics, sportswear, records, gentlemen's undergarments, bedclothes, and video games for PS4.

Marlieth: I'm going to give it to Mike a fishing rod because he's a fishing fanatic.

Karla : What about this men's thong?

Marlieth: Are you kidding me? I'd be crazy if I give it to him a present like that.

Karla : I was just kidding!

THEY'RE AT THE BANK

Mr. Castellon : Good morning, Mrs. Lopez! Is Mr. Moreno in?

Mrs. Lopez : No, he's not in. He's at the bank.

Mr. Castellon : Is he depositing or withdrawing money?

Mrs. Lopez : He's depositing some considerable amount of money for the company he works.

Mr. Castellon : By the way, where's Ericka?

Mrs. Lopez : She's at the bank too. She's withdrawing some money that her mom sent her from the United States.

Mr. Castellon : Oh, I understand. Please, tell Mr. Jack Moreno Castellon that I need to talk to him as soon as possible because we need to register the cattle ranch in the Income General Direction (IGD).

Mrs. Lopez : Last time, Mr. Moreno went to the Income General Direction, but you weren't there.

Mr. Castellon : Why didn't he give to my assistant his documents in order to register that property?

Mrs. Lopez : I don't have any idea Mr. Castellon. Maybe, because you are the general manager of the Income General Direction.

Mr. Castellon : Anyway, I'm going to the bank after leaving here; perhaps, I can see them over there.

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HAVING A GOOD TIME WITH FRIENDS

Karl : Guys, would you like to come to drink some smoothies with us?

Andy : I may as well! Who are going with us?



Karla : Mike, Lisa, Rachel, Marlieth, and George.

Lisa : Where are we going to drink smoothies?

George : I know a nice place not far from here, but I don't know what types of options you have.

Andy : Well, I was thinking of going to "Sow & Reap Smoothies". What do you think?

Marlieth : "Sow & Reap Smoothies" is a beautiful place and the treatment is pretty good.

Rachel : Why don't we go to "Riquiciosos Smoothies" where we have a comfortable place and the service is also good?

Mike : Raise your hands the ones who want to go to "Sow & Reap Smoothies"... Let's see... one, two, three, and four. We are the majority, guys!

Andy : Don't argue and let's go to "Sow & Reap Smoothies."

HAVING DINNER AT THE RESTAURANT

Waitress : Good evening, gentlemen! My name is Dina, and welcome to "Crunchy Restaurant" where your meals are served in less than fifteen minutes. Do you want a table for two?

Tom : Yes, please, but we're in a rush.

Waitress : O.K. Do you want to have a look at the menu or do you know what you're going to have?

Dave : We do know what we're going to have. Please, bring two roast chickens and two cups of coffee.

Tom : Make that one cup of coffee! I want cider.

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Waitress : O.K. I'll be right back with your order.

Tom : While you're at it; could you bring me a glass of water without ice?

Waitress : Yes, sir. No problem.

(Ten minutes later)

Waitress : Here's your order gentlemen! Enjoy your meal!



Dave : Thanks a lot.

Tom : Dave, how's your roast chicken?

Dave : Great!

Tom : Mine is out of this world. I was afraid the chicken wasn't cooked properly, but it's just right.

Dave : Let's go Dutch! I'm going to call the waitress.

Tom : Don't worry about that thing and put your money away. I'll pay for the dinner. Miss, could I have the bill, please?

Waitress : Yes. It's \$80.

Tom : Here you are a hundred bill and take your 15% tip.

Waitress : Here's your change \$8. Thanks for coming!

AMERICAN CULTURE:

When the service is good, tipping is expected to be 15-20% of the bill.



FAQS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. What does FAQS stand for?

→ FAQS stands for Frequently Asked Questions.

2. What is the difference among “accent”, “ascent”, and “assent”?

→ “Accent” is used as a verb and as a noun; as a verb means: to stress or emphasize; e.g.: You must accent the last syllable. As a noun means: a stronger articulation of a particular syllable of a word or phrase in order to distinguish it from the others or to emphasize it. It also means: the distinctive manner of pronouncing a language associated with a particular region, social group, etc., whether of a native speaker or a foreign speaker.

“Ascent” is a noun that means: the act of ascending and the degree of elevation of an object.

“Assent” is a noun that means: consent, compliance; e.g.: We need your assent before we can go ahead with the plans.

3. What is the difference between “Advice” and “Advise”?

→ “Advice (n)": opinion given as to what to do or how to handle a situation. E.g.: I want you to give me an advice on what to say at the interview.

“Advise (v)": to counsel (to give advice, to recommend).

4. What is the difference among “dish”, “food”, and “meal”?

→ “Food”: Something that people or animals eat, or plants absorb, to keep them alive, but it's not cooked. E.g.: Food is necessary for every living thing.

“Meal”: The occasion when food is eaten, that is, when food is cooked. E.g.: My doctor recommended to eat 5 meals a day.

“Dish”: Something that is specifically prepared to be eaten.

5. What does WTF stand for?

→ WTF stands for “What the fuck?”, and it's used to curse publicly without actually uttering profanities; it is also used to express dismay, surprise, confusion, or that something is unbelievable. What the fuck are you doing? [¿Qué diablos haces?].

RIVERS OF BABYLON (Boney M.)

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down
Ye-eah we wept, when we remembered Zion.*

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down
Ye-eah we wept, when we remembered Zion*

*When the wicked carried us away in captivity required from us a song
Now how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land.*

*When the wicked carried us away in captivity required from us a song
Now how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land.*

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah let the words of our mouth

*And the mediations of our heart be acceptable in thy sight here tonight.
Let the words of our mouth*

And the mediations of our heart be acceptable in thy sight here tonight.

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down

Ye-eah we wept, when we remembered Zion

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down

Ye-eah we wept, when we remembered Zion

By the rivers of Babylon (dark tears of Babylon)

There we sat down (you got to sing a song)

Ye-eah we wept, (sing a song of love)

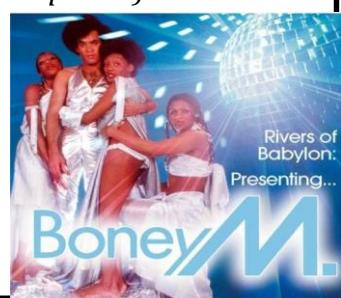
When we remembered Zion (yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah)

By the rivers of Babylon (rough bits of Babylon)

There we sat down (you hear the people cry)

Ye-eah we wept, (they need their God)

When we remembered Zion (ooh, like the power)



MY LOVE (WESTLIFE)

An empty street, an empty house, a hole inside my heart

I'm all alone, the rooms are getting smaller

I wonder how, I wonder why

I wonder where they are

The days we had, the songs we sang together, oh yeah

And all my love, I'm holding on forever

Reaching for the love that seems so far



So I say a little prayer and hope my dreams will take me there

Where the skies are blue to see you once again my love

Over seas from coast to coast to find a place I love the most

Where the fields are green to see you once again, my love

I try to read, I go to work; I'm laughing with my friends

But I can't stop to keep myself from thinking, oh, no.

I wonder how, I wonder why

I wonder where they are

The days we had, the songs we sang together, oh yeah.

And all my love, I'm holding on forever

Reaching for the love that seems so far

So I say a little prayer and hope my dreams will take me there

Where the skies are blue to see you once again my love

Over seas from coast to coast to find a place I love the most

Where the fields are green to see you once again,

To hold you in my arms, to promise you my love,

To tell you from the heart, you're all I'm thinking of

Reaching for the love that seems so far

So I say a little prayer and hope my dreams will take me there

Where the skies are blue to see you once again my love

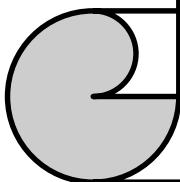
Over seas from coast to coast to find a place I love the most

Where the fields are green to see you once again, my love

Say a little prayer (my sweet love)

Dreams will take me there, where the skies are blue (woah, yeah)

To see you once again....



THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR (DIONNE WARWICK)

*And I never thought I'd feel this way
And as far as I'm concerned I'm glad I got the chance to say
That I do believe I love you
And if I should ever go away
Well, then close your eyes and try to feel the way we do today
And then if you can remember
Keep smiling, keep shining, knowing you can always count on me
For sure, that's what friends are for
For good times and bad times
I'll be on your side forever more
That's what friends are for
[Stevie Wonder]*

*Well, you came and opened me and now there's so much more I see
And so by the way I thank you
[Elton John]*

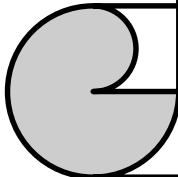
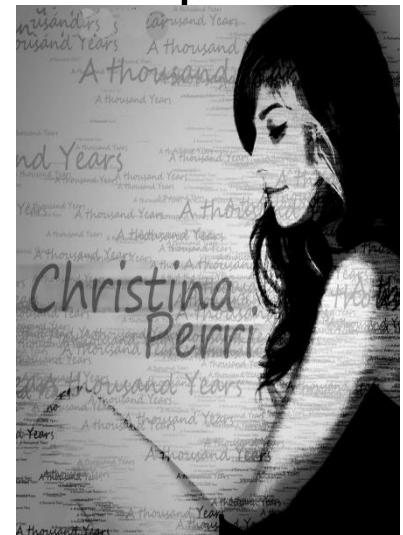
*Whoa, and then for the times when we're apart
Well, then close your eyes and know these words coming from my heart
And then if you can remember, oh
[Stevie Wonder]*

*Keep smiling, keep shining, knowing you can always count on me
For sure, that's what friends are for
For good times and bad times
I'll be on your side forever more
That's what friends are for
Keep smiling, keep shining, knowing you can always count on me
For sure, that's what friends are for
For good times and bad times
I'll be on your side forever more
That's what friends are for...*



A THOUSAND YEARS (Christina Perri ft. Steve Kazee)

*The day we met, frozen I held my breath
Right from the start I knew it found a home for my
Heart beats fast, colors and promises
How to be brave
How can I love when I'm afraid to fall
But watching you stand alone
All of my doubt suddenly goes away somehow
One step closer
I have died everyday waiting for you
Darling don't be afraid I have loved you
For a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more
[Steve Kazee]
Time stands still, beauty in all she is
I will be brave, I will not let anything take away
What's standing in front of me
Every breath, every hour has come to this
[Christina Perri]
One step closer
I have died everyday waiting for you
Darling don't be afraid I have loved you
For a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more
All along I believed I would find you
Time has brought your heart to me
I have loved you for a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more
I'll love you for a thousand more
One step closer
I have died everyday waiting for you
Darling don't be afraid I have loved you
For a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more
All along I believed I would find you...*



AUTHOR'S WORDS

It is a privilege and a blessing that you fighter student of the English language have had the opportunity, time, and wish to study with us this world language. This book has been compiled and designed by myself in order to have a good methodology in English teaching. In it, I have put into practice what it has been useful for me as a student and teacher of the English language at the same time. The units presented in this small book contain grammar definitions very clearly and examples focused on real and daily life. With us, you learn grammar, practice the new vocabulary learned in each unit, pronunciation, learn about Nicaraguan and American culture at the same time, develop your listening comprehension and speaking, and then again we learn about our beloved country Nicaragua following the wise words of our universal poet Ruben Dario "Nicaragua... Land of lakes and volcanoes", especially learning about our Department of Chontales which has a popular saying - "Chontales... where rivers are made of milk and stones cuajadas". We also have included in this textbook songs with the corresponding lyrics in order that you can practice your listening comprehension, learn further vocabulary, and improve your pronunciation by listening and reading the lyrics of these songs.

I think that God and you as students of this humble English course as a foreign language are the only people who can judge my job about the way I teach English, since my target is to contribute with the education of my Nicaraguan brethren, no matter their social status, skin color, age, race, sex, or religious beliefs; all of us have the right to be educated. As you know, this is a non-profit English course created especially for those who really want to learn English at a low cost, because this one is almost for free. Our goal is to educate qualified English speakers who can acquit themselves wherever they go.

We love Nicaragua and our neighbor; that is why we seed in the students' hearts the word of our Lord Jesus Christ in putting into practice what the Holy Bible says: "Love your neighbor as yourself". Never look back if you do not have positive ideas, forge ahead and make your dreams come true in the name of Jesus Christ because everything is possible for one who believes. To God be the glory! Amen!

Yours sincerely,

Jyuber E. Alvarez C.